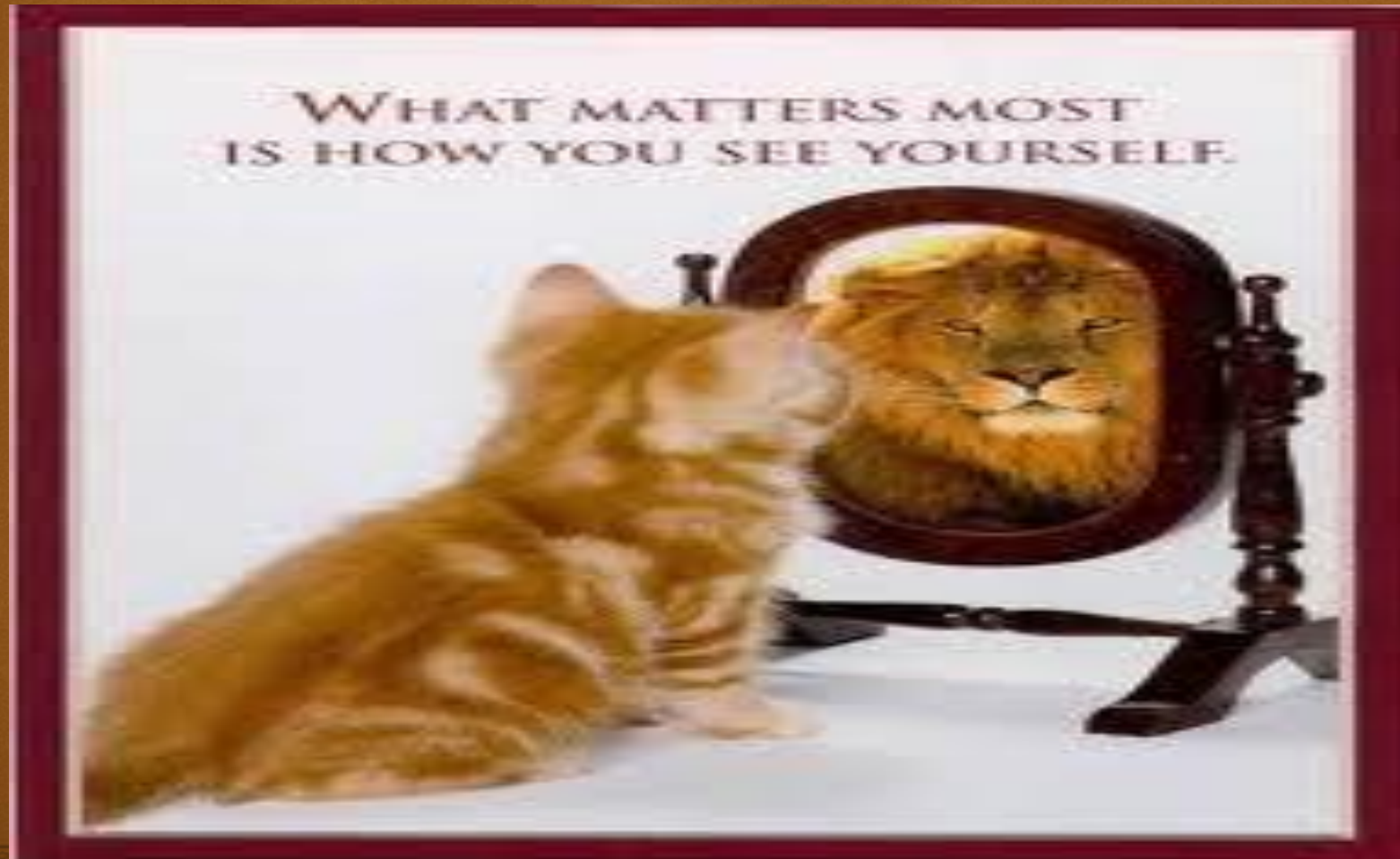


4.2 Writing Reflective Pieces



What are Reflection Pieces?

- ❧ An exploration of a topic using personal thought and experience
- ❧ The goal of the reflective essay is ultimately to weave together reflections in a way that conveys a new thought to the reader.
- ❧ This seemingly flowing essay requires a large amount of planning and structure during preparation.

Step 1



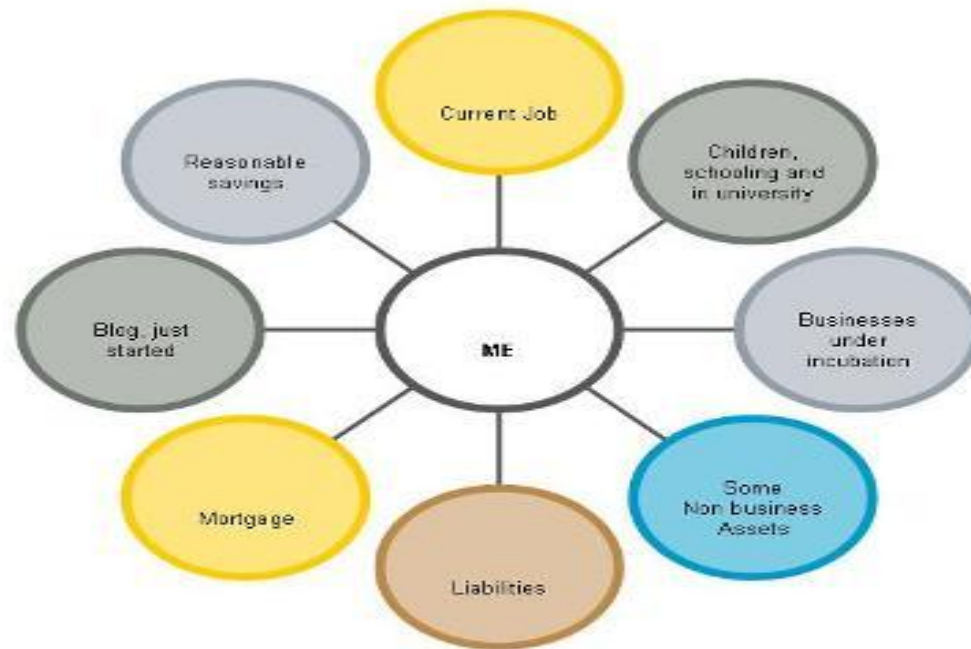
- ❧ Create your opening paragraph
- ❧ Paint a picture to create a "hook" so that the reader becomes engaged
- ❧ End with your thesis sentence, a cohesive springboard for the reflections to come, rather than a single point that you will prove throughout the piece

Step 2



- ❧ Make a "mind map" on a separate sheet of paper
- ❧ Draw a circle with your topic written in the center and draw lines around it, extending out
- ❧ Brainstorm which personal experiences you can disclose in your essay, as well as facts or events you might include
- ❧ From each specific idea, map out your thoughts and reactions.

Step 2- Mind Map



Step 3



- ❧ Create an outline from your mind map
- ❧ Select your strongest experiences and points and group them into paragraphs
- ❧ Order the paragraphs in a logical way, focusing on the reflections the reader should absorb to follow the evolution of your thought.
- ❧ For instance, if you are writing about grief, you would want a paragraph dealing with reactions to death to precede one that centers on coping mechanisms.

Step 4



- ❧ Include specific personal experiences.
- ❧ Any experiences you recount should be brief, but make sure they are unique and concrete
- ❧ Focus your memories to a short incident or experience, rather than leaning on vagary
- ❧ For instance, in an essay about personal conflict, talk about a specific heated exchange with your father, rather than the fact you simply "fight a lot."

Step 5



- ✧ Write your essay using your outline as a guide. As you write, focus on vivid, honest language.
- ✧ Keep one point or experience and its reflections to a single paragraph.

Step 6



PROOFREAD

- One of the hardest parts of a reflective essay is to keep the reader tracking with your mental or emotional journey

Step 7



- ❧ After you have written your essay, write your conclusion. In the first sentence of your last paragraph, sum up what you have written so far
- ❧ Your final goal in the rest of your closing paragraph is to push your essay one step further, toward a universal truth that applies to the topic at hand.
- ❧ Ask yourself some of these questions as you conclude your essay:

Step 7: ?'s to ask Yourself

- ❧ What did you learn through these realizations and experiences?
- ❧ What action should an individual facing these issues take next?
- ❧ How can you reconcile your experience with the rest of the world?

Step 8



Peer Editing

Good copy